



BEDFORD

Middlesex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Bedford is located 15 miles northwest of Boston. The town was founded in 1729, and has retained both natural and architectural beauty. Visitors to Bedford find an attractive historic district and town common in the center, the famous Bedford Flag on display in the library, the 1790 Job Lane house and several national historic landmarks. Annual celebrations include "Pole Capping" in April, when the Bedford Minuteman Company re-enacts a Revolutionary era tradition and "Bedford Day" in September, celebrated with a parade, street fair and dancing. Bedford residents enjoy many services. Education is a top priority, with the schools well known for scoring competitively by all standards. The library serves everyone and has active children's programs. A senior center, open daily, offers health and leisure services. An in-town minibus service runs weekdays. There are recreation programs for all ages, including after-school day-care, and summer day camp. Outdoor facilities include a swimming pond, a lake for boating, a bikepath to Cambridge, and walking trails through conservation lands. All services are voted by the residents at Bedford's open town meeting. The town is home to a mix of business and industry, which with Middlesex Community College, a veteran's hospital and Hanscom Air Base, employ some 23,000 persons. The unique quality within Bedford is its community spirit. With diverse ethnic, religious and special interest groups, Bedfordites make a conscious effort to be inclusive. Residents believe it is a fine place to work, visit or call home.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Billerica on the north, Burlington and Lexington on the east, Lincoln on the south, and Concord and Carlisle on the west. Bedford is 11 miles south of Lowell, 15 miles northwest of Boston, and 216 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 13.87 sq. miles

Land Area: 13.74 sq. miles

Population: 12,996

Density: 946 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Bedford Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Concord, Billerica, Wilmington, Lexington

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 275-0083

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1729

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	7,301		
Democrats	1,725	23.6	%
Republicans	1,021	14.0	%
Other parties	4	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	4,551	62.3	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Bedford town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	12,595	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	12,595	100.0
Male.....	6,275	49.8	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	227	1.8
Female.....	6,320	50.2	Mexican.....	33	0.3
Under 5 years.....	843	6.7	Puerto Rican.....	42	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	873	6.9	Cuban.....	29	0.2
10 to 14 years.....	809	6.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	123	1.0
15 to 19 years.....	610	4.8	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	12,368	98.2
20 to 24 years.....	332	2.6	White alone.....	11,324	89.9
25 to 34 years.....	1,196	9.5	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	2,310	18.3	Total population.....	12,595	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,952	15.5	In households.....	12,006	95.3
55 to 59 years.....	701	5.6	Householder.....	4,621	36.7
60 to 64 years.....	658	5.2	Spouse.....	2,974	23.6
65 to 74 years.....	1,110	8.8	Child.....	3,668	29.1
75 to 84 years.....	820	6.5	Own child under 18 years.....	2,862	22.7
85 years and over.....	381	3.0	Other relatives.....	342	2.7
Median age (years).....	42.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	86	0.7
18 years and over.....	9,623	76.4	Nonrelatives.....	401	3.2
Male.....	4,721	37.5	Unmarried partner.....	132	1.0
Female.....	4,902	38.9	In group quarters.....	589	4.7
21 years and over.....	9,402	74.6	Institutionalized population.....	517	4.1
62 years and over.....	2,703	21.5	Noninstitutionalized population.....	72	0.6
65 years and over.....	2,311	18.3	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,113	8.8	Total households.....	4,621	100.0
Female.....	1,198	9.5	Family households (families).....	3,419	74.0
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,574	34.1
One race.....	12,445	98.8	Married-couple family.....	2,974	64.4
White.....	11,486	91.2	With own children under 18 years.....	1,363	29.5
Black or African American.....	208	1.7	Female householder, no husband present.....	337	7.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	28	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	168	3.6
Asian.....	680	5.4	Nonfamily households.....	1,202	26.0
Asian Indian.....	144	1.1	Householder living alone.....	1,007	21.8
Chinese.....	409	3.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	472	10.2
Filipino.....	19	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,636	35.4
Japanese.....	17	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,342	29.0
Korean.....	33	0.3	Average household size.....	2.60	(X)
Vietnamese.....	16	0.1	Average family size.....	3.04	(X)
Other Asian ¹	42	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	4,708	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	4,621	98.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	87	1.8
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	16	0.3
Some other race.....	43	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	150	1.2	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.6	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	4,621	100.0
White.....	11,615	92.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	3,705	80.2
Black or African American.....	253	2.0	Renter-occupied housing units.....	916	19.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	50	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.75	(X)
Asian.....	757	6.0	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.98	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	4	-			
Some other race.....	79	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	100
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	23
Federal (Section 8):	0

The Massachusetts Division of Employment and Training

DET publishes the state's monthly employment and unemployment report, analyzes the condition of the state's economy, examines economic trends, and formulates industry and occupational projections. All of these are essential to public and private sector economists, employers, and public officials who use the information to formulate policy, craft law, and make strategic decisions for the future.

Municipal Data Bank

Division of Local Services, Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

The Municipal Data Bank collects, analyzes and distributes financial, demographic and economic data on Massachusetts cities and towns. Financial data comes from a series of reports that municipalities submit annually to the Division of Local Services. Demographic and economic data is collected from other state and federal agencies. The Data Bank develops and maintains systems to collect and distribute the information, assists users in interpretation and use, participates in research projects with other agencies and organizations, and distributes reports which summarize data analyses

Division of Transitional Assistance

The Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), formerly known as the Department of Public Welfare, is the state agency responsible for administering public assistance programs for needy citizens of the Commonwealth



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Bedford is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 3 and State Routes 4, 62, and 225. State Route 128 is easily accessible in the neighboring town of Lexington.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station is available on the Lowell Line in Woburn (travel time: 24-26 min.; 195 MBTA parking spaces). There is no freight rail service in Bedford, but the network of intermodal facilities serving eastern Massachusetts is easily accessible.

Bus

Bedford is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), which provides fixed route service to Alewife Station on the Red Subway Line. The MBTA also offers THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled. Bedford Local Transit also provides transportation within the town.

Other

Hanscom Field is a Reliever Airport with Commercial Service (CR), with a 5,106' asphalt and a 7,001' concrete and asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision. Hanscom Field is an alternate to Boston's Logan International Airport. M & L Transportation provides scheduled daily service to Logan Airport.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Carleton-Willard Village Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.